

Date

Gerald. A. Turlich, Jr. Sheriff  
Plaquemines Parish  
8022 Highway 23  
Belle Chasse, Louisiana 70037

**Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2016-670**

Dear Sheriff Turlich:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its August 19, 2016 Board meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion regarding whether there is a conflict of interest for the Plaquemines Sheriff's Office to directly contract with Frederick Yorsch or a business entity with whom Mr. Yorsch may be associated, if the Plaquemines Sheriff's Office eliminates the full-time position of legal counsel. You are reviewing several options to reduce your budget. One of these options includes eliminating the position of legal counsel and contracting with a private attorney or firm to perform the services. Mr. Yorsch currently holds the legal counsel position that may be eliminated.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you that, the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Frederick Yorsch, or a business entity with whom he may be associated, from contracting with the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office to perform legal services for two years from his termination from the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office. La. R.S. 42:1121B(1) provides that no former public employee shall, for a period of two years following the termination of his public employment, assist another person, for compensation, in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction in which such former public employee participated at any time during his public employment and involving the governmental entity by which he was formerly employed, or for a period of two years following termination of his public employment, render, any service which such former public employee had rendered to the agency during the term of his public employment on a contractual basis, regardless of the parties to the contract, to, for, or on behalf of the agency with which he was formerly employed. Mr. Yorsch would be rendering the same services to his former agency if he were to contract with the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office to provide the services previously provided by the legal counsel position.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or laws other than Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (225) 219-5600 or (800) 842-6630.

Sincerely,  
**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

Brett Robinson  
For the Board